

Meshomasic Hiking Club Spring 2018 Schedule of Events

<http://meshomasichikingclub.org>

Ratings: A=very rough terrain, elevation gain over 1000 ft.; B=difficult terrain, elevation gain 500-1000 ft.; C=average terrain, moderate up and down; D=flat, little or no elevation change; E=exploratory, be prepared for anything; P=paddle; 1=fast; 2=brisk; 3=average; 4=slow

FOR THE ENJOYMENT AND SAFETY OF EVERYONE, PLEASE KNOW YOUR LIMITS AND HIKE TO YOUR ABILITY

Tuesday, April 3, 9:00a - Gulf Road to Leesville Dam, East Hampton: A hike of 5 to 7 miles near the Salmon River from Route 16 to Leesville Dam and return. Rating: C1. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring water, snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the covered Bridge parking lot on Comstock Bridge Road off Route 16 just west of the Salmon River in East Hampton. RSVP by 04/02 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, April 4, 8:30a - Falls Brook Trail, West Hartland: A 6-mile hike to waterfalls and cascades. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 04/03 to John at 860-342-0658.

Thursdays, April 5 through June 28, 9:00a - Hurd State Park, East Hampton: This hike happens each Thursday at the same location but check with Chantal in case of a change. We do a 3.6-mile loop with a fairly steep climb of 300 feet at a good pace. We complete the loop at 10:30 am. Friendly, well-managed dogs are welcome. Rating: B2. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hurd Park winter parking lot at the intersection of Route 151 (Middle Haddam Road) and Hurd Park Road at the traffic light. From Route 66 in Cobalt, take Route 151 south for 2.5 miles. RSVP by the day prior to Chantal at 860-573-2946.

Friday, April 6, 9:00a - Nathaniel Lyon Memorial Park and the Natchaug Trail, Eastford: An 8-mile hike on a blue-blazed trail passing a large marsh, along a river, and to a huge dead chestnut tree. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 04/05 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, April 7, 9:30a - Chatfield Trail South, Killingworth: A roughly 8-mile hike on the scenic Chatfield Trail by interesting rock formations. Can you fit through the Fat Man's Squeeze? Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring food and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Chatfield Hollow State Park hiker's lot on Route 80. From intersection of Routes 80 and 81 in Killingworth, drive west on Route 80 for 1.1 miles and take right into parking lot. RSVP by 04/06 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

Sunday, April 8, 8:30a - Mount Higby Exploratory, Meriden / Middlefield: This will be a 4- to 5-mile hike mostly on the Mattabesett Trail to beautiful views on the top of Mount Higby. From there, we will try to find the site of a plane crash and a Leatherman cave. Rating: E2. Kids who can keep up are welcome and well-managed dogs are OK. Hiking boots only. Bring snack and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues at 8:30 OR at the large trailhead parking lot on Route 66 in Middlefield at 8:50. This lot is about ½ mile west of Guida's Restaurant. RSVP by 04/07 to Steve at 860-301-8661 or sdk8@att.net.

Tuesday, April 10, 9:00a - Air Line Trail/ River Road loop, Colchester: A hike of 5 to 7 miles on an old rail bed with return on a dirt road along the Salmon River. Rating: D1. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring water, snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Bull Hill Road parking area. From Route 16 in East Hampton turn onto Comstock Bridge Road by the covered bridge over the Salmon River. Follow the paved road for 1.1 miles then take the left fork onto Bull Hill Road. Do not take the dirt road on the right. Follow the road to the top of the steep hill. Parking will be on the left at the sharp curve to the right. RSVP by 04/09 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, April 11, 8:00a - Appalachian Trail, Salisbury: An 8-mile hike on the northernmost section of the AT in Connecticut. Rating: B3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 04/10 to John at 860-342-0658.

Friday, April 13, 9:00a - Shepards Preserve and the Bailey Trail, Madison: A 6-mile hike along the Hammonasset River. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 04/12 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, April 14, 9:00a - Case Mountain, Manchester: Roughly 9-mile hike mostly on Shenipsit Trail to John Tom Loop, Garnet and Pine Ledges. There will be an option to make hike shorter if you are willing to walk back on your own. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Case Pond Lot on Birch Mountain Road in Manchester. From I-384 east, take exit 4, at end of exit take a left on Wyllys Street, right at traffic light on to Highland Street (Route 534), immediately after passing under I-384, take right onto Birch Mountain Road and right into parking lot. RSVP by 04/13 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

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Sunday, April 15, 10:00a - East Kettle Hole Trail, Mansfield: A 4-mile hike with many water views along the Natchaug River, the east end of the reservoir, the "walking dike", kettle holes, and other features. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Wildlife Management parking lot at the end of North Windham Road in the village of North Windham. Driving east on Route 6, go for 1.9 miles beyond the divided highway. Turn left at the Route 203 signal on North Windham Road Extended. In 0.3 miles turn left on Mansfield Road and cross the river. Turn left immediately into North Windham Road and drive to its end. RSVP by 04/14 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Wednesday, April 18, 9:00a - Northern Cockaponset Trail, Haddam: A 6-mile exploratory hike in the northern section of the Cockaponset State Forest visiting picturesque Turkey Hill Reservoir. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 04/18 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Friday, April 20, 10:00a - Messerschmidt Pond Paddle, Westbrook: A 3-mile paddle on a pretty lake with several islands and Messerschmidt Pond Wildlife Area along the shore and on islands. Rating: P3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues at 10:00 OR the boat launch on Stevenstown Road (Route 145) at 10:30. Take Route 9 south to exit 5, turn right on Route 80 (west), then in 3.5 miles turn left on Route 145. The launch is 1.4 miles south on Route 145. RSVP by 04/20 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Saturday, April 21, 9:15a - Chatfield Hollow State Park, Killingworth: Roughly 6-mile hike in the park with option to cut hike short after roughly 3 miles, if you want to road walk back. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Chatfield Hollow State Park hiker's lot on Route 80. From intersection of Routes 80 and 81 in Killingworth, drive west on Route 80 for 1.1 miles and take right into the parking lot. RSVP by 04/20 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

Saturday, April 21, 1:00p - Brainerd Quarry, Haddam Neck: A 3-mile hike through an old quarry with vistas of the Connecticut River. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 04/20 to John at 860-342-0658.

Sunday, April 22, 4:55a - Earth Day Sunrise Hike - Ragged Mountain, Berlin / Southington: This will be an approximately 5-mile hike offering excellent views of much of Connecticut. We will begin hiking by 5:25 a.m. in order to get to a beautiful eastern viewpoint by 5:50 a.m. to watch the sunrise at 6:00 a.m. A headlamp or flashlight is necessary for the first several minutes as first light does not begin until 5:30 a.m. Rating: B2. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring breakfast and drinks if you wish. There will be time to have something to eat at this viewpoint. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues promptly at 4:55 a.m. or at the Ragged Mountain hikers' lot on West Lane in Berlin at 5:20 a.m. From Route 9 northbound take left exit 24, driving west toward Route 571. Follow 571 to the left turn onto High Road (Route 71A). Drive 1.2 miles south (becomes Chamberlain Highway) and turn right on West Lane. Find the lot where the road turns sharply left and becomes Wigwam Road. Hike is co-lead by Steve Crusberg (860-301-8661) and Gina Wildermuth. RSVP is not required.

Tuesday, April 24, 9:00a - Day Pond, East Hampton: A hike of 5 to 7 miles on park trails. Rating: C1. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots recommended. Bring water, snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the covered Bridge parking lot on Comstock Bridge Road off Route 16 just west of the Salmon River in East Hampton. RSVP by 04/23 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, April 25, 8:00a - Music Mountain Exploratory, Cornwall: A 6-mile hike to mysterious foundations and other structures, and to Dean's Ravine. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 04/24 to John at 860-342-0658.

Friday, April 27, 9:00a - Pequabuck River Paddle, Farmington: A 5- to 7-mile paddle on a gentle, winding stream through Shade Swamp. Rating: P3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues OR at the Pequabuck boat launch on Meadow Road in Farmington at 9:30. RSVP by 04/27 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

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Saturday, April 28, 8:00a - Gay City State Park plus the Shenipsit Trail, Hebron: This will be a 10- to 12-mile hike from Gay City State Park across Birch Mountain Road to the Shenipsit Trail. We will follow a brook, go past a pond, go to very nice vistas, and hike past glacial erratics. Rating: C1. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hemlock Grange parking lot on Sage Hollow Road, just east of the junction of Routes 17 and 17A Portland at 8:00. If you would like, we will also be meeting at the first parking lot in Gay City State Park off Route 85 in Hebron at 8:30. RSVP by 04/27 to Steve at 860-301-8661 or sdk8@att.net.

Saturday, April 28, 3:00p - Boil-up on the Bog, Portland: A 5-mile hike followed by a campfire above an old cranberry bog. Celebrate the club's 20th anniversary with the founder at a pot luck dinner. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring your beverage and food to share. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hemlock Grange parking lot on Sage Hollow Road, just east of the junction of Routes 17 and 17A Portland. RSVP by 04/27 to John at 860-342-0658.

Sunday, April 29, 9:15a - Hartman Park, Old Lyme: Roughly 6-mile hike in park with option to cut hike short after 3 miles. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hartman Park main lot. From the southern end of Route 11 in Salem, turn right onto Route 82 then immediately left on Darling Road (by Salem Creamery). Make a half-right turn onto White Birch Road at the 5-way intersection. In 0.8 mile turn left on Darling Road again, then immediately right on Gungy Road. Look for the lot on the left in 1.8 miles. RSVP by 04/28 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

Monday, April 30, 9:00a - Machimoodus State Park, East Haddam: 5+ miles of state park trails. Rating: C1. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots recommended. Bring water, snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Machimoodus State Park lot off Route 151 in East Haddam. From Route 66 in the Cobalt section of East Hampton, drive south on Route 151 for 6.7 miles to the park entrance on the right which is 0.7 mile south of the Salmon River bridge. RSVP by 04/29 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Monday, April 30, 1:00p - "Home by Dinnertime" Paddle - Red Cedar Lake, Lebanon: A 3-mile paddle on a pretty lake with several islands and Mooween State Park on the islands and along one shore. Rating: P3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton OR the boat launch on Camp Mooween Road at the northwestern end of the lake at 1:30 pm. RSVP by 04/30 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Tuesday, May 1, 9:00a - Chatfield Hollow State Park, Killingworth: A hike of 6 miles on the east loop of the park trails. Rating: B1. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots recommended. Bring water, snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Chatfield Hollow State Park hiker's lot on Route 80. From intersection of Routes 80 and 81 in Killingworth, drive west on Route 80 for 1.1 miles and take right into the parking lot. RSVP by 04/30 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, May 2, 9:00a - Beardsley and Humphrey Preserves, Roxbury: A 6-mile hike along Moosehorn Brook to a rocky gorge called Caroline Glen. If time allows we will visit Raven Rock Preserve as well. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 05/01 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, May 5, 9:15a - Seven Falls State Park, Middletown: Roughly 8-mile hike by interesting rock formations. Perhaps a post-hike margarita at Coyote Blue for Cinco de Mayo? Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Seven Falls Lot on Route 154. From Route 9 south, take exit 10, right at light at end of exit, travel 0.8 mile and park in lot on left. RSVP by 05/04 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

Sunday, May 6, 8:00a - Mattabesett Trail, Middlefield / Meriden: This will be a 5- to 6-mile out and back hike up to Mt. Beseck on the Mattabesett Trail. We will have beautiful views of Black Pond and beyond. Rating: C2. Kids who can keep up are welcome and well-managed dogs are OK. Hiking boots only. Bring snack and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues at 8:00 OR at Guida's Restaurant parking lot on Route 66 (at the junction of Route 147) in Middlefield at 8:20. RSVP by 05/05 to Steve at 860-301-8661 or sdk8@att.net.

Tuesday, May 8, 9:00a - George Dudley Seymour State Park, East Hampton: A 5- to 7-mile exploratory hike connecting up with Hurd State Park trails. Rating: C1. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots recommended. Bring water, snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the end of Clarkhurst Road. From Route 66 in Cobalt, drive south on Route 151 for 2.5 miles. At traffic light, take right onto Hurd Park Road and drive for 1.3 miles. Turn right onto Clarkhurst Road. RSVP by 05/07 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

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Wednesday, May 9, 9:00a - Sleeping Giant State Park, Hamden: An 8-mile hike in a state park with some steep climbs and vistas. Rating: B3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 05/08 to John at 860-342-0658.

Friday, May 11, 9:00a - The Roc Rimmon / Lantern Ridge Exploratory, Beacon Falls: A 6-mile exploratory hike of a large wilderness-like area. Rating: E3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 05/10 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, May 12, 10:00a - New Mattabessett Trail section, Durham: A 6-mile exploration of a new trail including a gorge, high ledges, and a remote area. This trail, when finished, will replace a road walk on Old Blue Hills Road adding a mile or two. It begins near Mt. Pisgah at a parking lot for mountain bikers on Dead Hill Road. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the parking area at the end of Dead Hill Road. From Durham center go south on Route 17 then make a slight left onto Route 79. Drive 1.7 miles farther and turn right on Mt. Pisgah Road at Krauszer's Market. At the T intersection, turn left on Dead Hill Road and drive to its end. RSVP by 05/11 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Tuesday, May 15, 9:00a - Air Line Trail, Columbia: A 3-mile hike west into Hebron and back on an old rail bed. Rating: D1. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring water, snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Leonard Bridge Road parking lot on the Air Line Trail. Take Route 66 to Hebron, drive south on Route 85, turn left on Route 207, then left on Leonard Bridge Road just after Williams Pond on the left. Parking is 1.8 miles north. RSVP by 05/14 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, May 16, 9:00a - Narragansett Trail, Voluntown / North Stonington: An 8-mile hike on a blue-blazed trail over Bullet and High Ledges. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 05/15 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, May 19, 10:00a - Abe Temkin Preserve, Portland: A 3-mile hike on a Middlesex Land Trust preserve followed by an optional 3-mile hike in Great Pond Preserve in South Glastonbury. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hemlock Grange parking lot on Sage Hollow Road, just east of the junction of Routes 17 and 17A Portland. RSVP by 05/18 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday - Sunday, May 19, 10:00a - Selden Neck S. P. Campout, Lyme: This is the seventh annual spring overnight campout on Selden Neck (Island). On Saturday, we will paddle around the island (5 to 6 miles) and set up camp at Quarry Knob. We will have a campfire Saturday evening. On Sunday, we will hike about 4 miles on the island before packing up to return home. Transportation is by canoe or kayak only. Fee for camping is \$5 per person. If you wish to participate in the Saturday paddle and/or campfire only, or the Sunday hike only, you need not stay overnight. Rating: P2. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring Saturday dinner, Sunday breakfast, and two lunches. Bring your own complete camping gear if you wish to stay. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the boat launch site at the town dock at Deep River. From Route 9 south from Middletown, take exit 5 and turn left on Route 80 (Elm Street). Cross Route 154 (Main Street) and continue on River Street until it curves left at the railroad station and river. Cross the railroad tracks to the parking area and boat launch. I will provide you with copies of our campsite reservation to display on your car dashboard. RSVP by 05/19 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Tuesday, May 22, 9:00a - Air Line Trail, Columbia: A 3-mile hike east to Lebanon and return on an old rail bed. Rating: D1. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring water, snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Leonard Bridge Road parking lot on the Air Line Trail. Take Route 66 to Hebron, drive south on Route 85, turn left on Route 207, then left on Leonard Bridge Road just after Williams Pond on the left. Parking is 1.8 miles north. RSVP by 05/21 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, May 23, 9:00a - Perry Natural Area and CT College Arboretum, Waterford: A 6-mile hike in a gorge and woods adjacent to a famous arboretum. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 05/22 to John at 860-342-0658.

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Friday - Saturday, May 25, 5:30a - Mount Chocorua Climb, Albany, NH: A climb of between 6.5 and 9 miles depending upon route chosen. The climb from the Kancamangus Highway up the Champney Falls Trail yields a 2,250' elevation change. We will drive up Friday morning, allowing 5 hours, set up camp, and have the afternoon to do other hikes. With an early start Saturday morning, we will complete the hike and either return Saturday night or camp overnight to return Sunday. Mount Chocorua is the most alpine peak in the White Mountains, with a summit cone steep and exposed on all sides - the closest thing we have to a Matterhorn. Rating: A2. No kids or dogs. Hiking boots only. Bring Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch. Bring your own complete camping gear. Go regardless of weather. Meet at the location to be determined. Please call the leader to work out details. RSVP by 05/24 to Doug at 860-670-8515.

Saturday, May 26, 8:00a - Chatfield Hollow State Park, Killingworth: This will be an approximately 10-mile hike (with possible bailout after about 5 miles) with many ups and downs. We will go past caves, a pond, a reconstructed water wheel, and a covered bridge dating back to colonial times. Rating: C1. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues at 8:00 a.m. OR at the Chatfield Hollow parking lot at 8:30. Park in the left-hand lot farther in. RSVP by 05/25 to Steve at 860-301-8661 or sdk8@att.net.

Saturday, May 26, 3:00p - Walden Preserve and Route 11 Boil-up, Salem: A 5-mile hike in a Nature Conservancy preserve with brookside trails. Boil-up on Median Mountain on the long-abandoned Route 11 section in Salem. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring your beverage and food to share. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 05/25 to John at 860-342-0658.

Monday, May 28, 8:00a - Farmington River Paddle, Farmington: A paddle downriver and back on a flatwater stretch of the Farmington River of up to 10 miles. Appropriate for paddlers of any experience level. You are free to make this trip any distance you wish. Rating: P3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues OR at the Farmington River boat launch on Route 4 in Farmington at 8:30. The launch is a turnout south of Route 4 just west of the river. RSVP by 05/28 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Wednesday, May 30, 9:00a - Farmington Canal Trail and Brewery, Southington: A 10-mile walk on an old rail bed, now a biking / walking trail. A visit to a nearby brewery follows the hike. Rating: D3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 05/29 to John at 860-342-0658.

Thursday, May 31, 7:00p - Activities Planning Meeting, East Hampton: Come join us to plan the hikes, paddles, and other activities of your club. Even if you are not ready to lead a trip, please come see what this planning is all about. Bring your ideas for club events. Go regardless of weather. Meet at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1 East High Street, East Hampton. Park in the lot (off Route 66) next to the church which is on the northeast corner of Route 66 (High Street) and Main Street, East Hampton. Enter by the back door adjacent to the parking lot. RSVP by 05/31 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Saturday, June 2, 10:00a - Trails Day Salmon River Paddle, East Haddam: A flatwater paddle of 6 to 7 miles. We will launch at the Sunrise State Park. Paddle upriver to the Leesville Dam, return to explore the Pine Brook, then downriver on the Salmon to paddle up the Moodus River before returning. You may conveniently quit after 2 miles or after 3 miles. Rating: P3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring lunch and drinks. Go regardless of weather. Meet at the paddle launch in Sunrise Resort State Park at the bottom of the hill. From the junction of Routes 66 and 151 in Cobalt, drive south on 151 for 6.5 miles or 0.9 miles south of the junction of Routes 151 and 196. Turn right into the park and follow the road down the hill. RSVP by 06/02 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Saturday, June 2, 10:00a - National Trails Day Hike / Bike on the Air Line Trail, Portland: This event, organized by the Air Line Trail Committee of Portland, will include a ribbon cutting ceremony at 10:00 a.m. commemorating the official opening of the new Air Line Trail in Portland. A hike/bike of about 4 to 5 miles (possibly somewhat longer for bikers) will follow at approximately 10:30. Rating: D3. Kids accompanied by adults are welcome and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots preferred. Bikers must wear a helmet. Trail surface is stone dust, so hybrid or mountain bikes are needed. Bring water and snack. Also snacks to go will be available. Rain postpones hike to Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Meet at the Keegan Property parking area. From the junction with Route 66 by the Winchester Café in Portland, take Middle Haddam Road east for 0.3 mile. The parking area is right off that road. RSVP via call or text by 06/01 to Steve at 860-301-8661.

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FOR THE ENJOYMENT AND SAFETY OF EVERYONE, PLEASE KNOW YOUR LIMITS AND HIKE TO YOUR ABILITY

Saturday, June 2, 10:00a - Air Line Trail, Colchester: A 6-mile walk on a rail trail with vistas. Rating: D3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Bull Hill Road parking area. From Route 16 in East Hampton turn onto Comstock Bridge Road by the covered bridge over the Salmon River. Follow the paved road for 1.1 miles then take the left fork onto Bull Hill Road. Do not take the dirt road on the right. Follow the road to the top of the steep hill. Parking will be on the left at the sharp curve to the right. RSVP by 06/01 to John at 860-342-0658.

Monday, June 4, 8:30a - Dinosaur State Park trails, Rocky Hill: Hike 3 miles of park trails followed by lunch/picnic and viewing of exhibits. There is an admission fee of \$6, but those with a Charter Oak pass get in free. That pass can be obtained at the park. Rating: D1. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring water, snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues at 8:30 or at the Dinosaur State Park at 9:00. RSVP by 06/03 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Tuesday, June 5, 8:30a - Devil's Hopyard State Park, East Haddam: An approximately 5-mile hike on yellow and red trails. Rating: C1. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots recommended. Bring water, snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Chapman Falls parking lot at the Hopyard. From Moodus, take Route 151 (Town Street) south for 2.8 miles, turn left on Mt. Parnassus Road (Route 434), drive 5.9 miles, turn right on Hopyard Road (Route 434), drive 0.8 miles to Foxtown Road and the lot immediately on the left. RSVP by 06/04 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Tuesday, June 5, 9:00a - Pachaug River from Hopeville Pond, Griswold: A 6-mile paddle up and back on the Pachaug River from Hopeville Pond to the dam at Pachaug Pond. Rating: P3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton OR at the Hopeville Pond State Park entrance off Route 201 in Griswold at 9:45. RSVP by 06/05 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Wednesday, June 6, 9:00a - Brian Tierney and River Road Preserves, Roxbury: An 8-mile hike on streamside and riverside trails. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 06/05 to John at 860-342-0658.

Friday, June 8, 8:00a - In Search of the Baldwin Cave, Cornwall: A 6-mile exploratory hike on the old route of the Appalachian Trail in search of a lost cave on Coltsfoot Mountain. Rating: E3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 06/07 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, June 9, 10:00a - Coney Rock loop, Mansfield: A 7-mile hike to include major ups and downs near UConn campus, as well as the "50-foot Cliff", Coney Rock, old mill dam, Dorwart Preserve, and Fenton River bridges. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Mansfield Historical Society parking lot at 954 Storrs Road. Traveling east on Route 6, take the exit for Route 195/UConn, at next intersection go straight on Route 633, then turn left on Route 195. The parking lot will be on the right in 4.7 miles. RSVP by 06/08 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Sunday, June 10, 8:00a - Mattabesett and connecting trails, Durham: This will be a 4- to 6-mile hike to Mica Ledges and Mt. Pisgah. The hike will feature spectacular views and a stop at a beaver pond. It will be possible to bail after 4 miles. Rating: C2. Kids who can keep up are welcome and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring snack and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues at 8:00, OR at the parking lot at the end of Cream Pot Road in Durham at 8:20. From the junction of Routes 17 and 77 in Durham, drive south on 77 for 0.7 miles. Turn left onto Cream Pot Road. RSVP by 06/09 to Steve at 860-301-8661 or sdk8@att.net.

Monday, June 11, 1:00p - "Home by Dinnertime" Paddle - Williams Pond, Lebanon: A paddle of 4 to 5 miles in a lake with several islands just east of Amston Lake. Rating: P3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton or at the launch parking lot on Route 207 in Lebanon at 2:30 pm. RSVP by 06/11 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Meshomasic Hiking Club Spring 2018 Schedule of Events

<http://meshomasichikingclub.org>

Ratings: A=very rough terrain, elevation gain over 1000 ft.; B=difficult terrain, elevation gain 500-1000 ft.; C=average terrain, moderate up and down; D=flat, little or no elevation change; E=exploratory, be prepared for anything; P=paddle; 1=fast; 2=brisk; 3=average; 4=slow

FOR THE ENJOYMENT AND SAFETY OF EVERYONE, PLEASE KNOW YOUR LIMITS AND HIKE TO YOUR ABILITY

Tuesday, June 12, 8:30a - Air Line State Park Trail, East Hampton: A 6- to 7-mile out and back hike on level ground of an old rail bed heading towards Colchester with a detour through the Middlesex Land Trust Sellew Preserve and Daly Road trail. Rating: D1. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring water, snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Cranberry Bog parking lot off Smith Street in East Hampton. Take Route 66 to Route 196 south (Summit Street) just east of East Hampton center. In 0.4 mile turn left on Flanders Road then the next right on Smith Street. The lot will be on the left immediately beyond the pond. RSVP by 06/11 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, June 13, 8:30a - Ratlum Mountain and Winsor Woods, Canton: A 6-mile hike to a vista over Connecticut's largest reservoir. Expect some bushwhacking. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 06/12 to John at 860-342-0658.

Friday, June 15, 9:00a - Connecticut River in Segments - Great Island and the Mouth, Old Lyme: The first of a series of paddle trips on the Connecticut River covering it in segments. This will cover between 6 and 12 miles. We will launch at Great Island Boat Launch, paddle to the mouth of the Lieutenant River, then downriver around Great Island to return. If desired people may cross the river to coves on the Fenwick side and / or paddle to the mouth in Long Island Sound. Rating: P2. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues OR the boat launch at the end of Smith Neck Road off Route 156 in Old Lyme at 9:30. RSVP by 06/15 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Saturday, June 16, 3:00p - 70th Birthday Pot Luck Party: Come join us for a pot luck celebration of the 70th birthdays of several of our members. PLEASE NO GIFTS!! Rating: E3. No kids or dogs. No shoes needed! Bring a dish to share and your own drinks. Go regardless of weather. Meet at the Location to be determined. Tony will notify when that is decided. RSVP by 06/16 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Sunday, June 17, 10:00a - Nehantic State Forest, Hadlyme: Using a Lyme Land Trust preserve, this will be a 6- mile hike into the Nayantaquit Trail system to see pond views, rock steps, and a balanced boulder. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 06/16 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Tuesday, June 19, 8:30a - Air Line State Park Trail, East Hampton: A 6-mile out and back hike on level ground of an old rail bed heading towards Portland. Rating: D1. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring water, snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Cranberry Bog parking lot off Smith Street in East Hampton. Take Route 66 to Route 196 south (Summit Street) just east of East Hampton center. In 0.4 mile turn left on Flanders Road then the next right on Smith Street. The lot will be on the left immediately beyond the pond. RSVP by 06/18 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, June 20, 9:00a - Roraback Wildlife Management Area, Harwinton: An 8-mile hike in the state's largest wildlife management area. Expect some bushwhacking. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 06/19 to John at 860-342-0658.

Friday, June 22, 9:00a - Connecticut River in Segments - Elys Ferry to Lieutenant River, Lyme / Old Lyme: A paddle of 5.5 to 8.5 miles down the CT River from the launch at Elys Ferry Road to the launch at the Lieutenant River. A car spot is necessary. Rating: P2. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton or at the launch parking lot at the end of Elys Ferry Road, off Cove Road, which is off Route 156 in Lyme at 9:40. RSVP by 06/22 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Saturday, June 23, 9:15a - Valley Falls to Bolton Lake Dam, Vernon: Roughly 5-mile hike in a town park ending at Bolton Lake. Lake party / cookout to follow if interested. Bring your bathing suit and enthusiasm! Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and plenty to drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Valley Falls parking lot. From I-84 east, take exit 66, left at stop sign at end of exit, right at next stop sign onto Bolton road, in 1.4 miles take right onto Valley Falls Road, and then in a quarter mile, left into parking lot. RSVP by 06/22 to Jeff at 860-794-9739.

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Saturday, June 23, 10:00a - Oak Ledges Preserve, Portland: A walk and tree talk on a Middlesex Land Trust preserve. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots recommended. Bring snack and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Hemlock Grange parking lot on Sage Hollow Road, just east of the junction of Routes 17 and 17A Portland. RSVP by 06/22 to John at 860-342-0658.

Sunday, June 24, 10:00a - Grayville, Hebron: A 7-mile hike on the Orange Arrow Trail through the back country of Salmon River State Forest. Featuring: Jeremy River, a long millpond, multiple ridges, and shady solitude. Lunch on a ledge. Rating: C3. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the parking lot for Grayville Falls Park. Take Route 66 and turn south on Route 85 at Hebron. Drive 1.0 mile and turn right on Hope Valley Road continuing as it becomes Reidy Hill Road. Drive to the end of the road about 2.7 miles. RSVP by 06/23 to Bob at 860-942-2505.

Tuesday, June 26, 8:00a - Breakneck Pond (Bigelow Hollow S.P.), Union: A one-mile carry into a remote lake for a 3-mile paddle exploring beautiful islands which might be appropriate for camping. Rating: P2. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Appropriate paddling gear including a PFD. Bring lunch and drinks. Must either have a carrying cart or be very strong portagers. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues OR at the parking area at the northern end of Bigelow Pond at 8:50. RSVP by 06/26 to Tony at 860-490-5584 or arazel@comcast.net.

Tuesday, June 26, 8:30a - Portland Air Line Linear Park, Portland: A 6-mile out and back hike on level ground of an old rail bed heading towards downtown Portland. Rating: D1. Kids and well-managed dogs OK. Sneakers are OK. Bring water, snacks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the commuter parking lot at the junction of Routes 16 and 66 in East Hampton. RSVP by 06/25 to Alan at 860-267-2799.

Wednesday, June 27, 8:30a - Rattlesnake and Ballyhack Preserves, Cornwall: A 6-mile hike along a picturesque stream and among the largest and oldest white pines, including Connecticut's second tallest tree at 143'. Rating: C3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 06/26 to John at 860-342-0658.

Friday, June 29, 9:00a - Ponset Ridge Exploratory, Haddam: A 6-mile hike in a preserve including a bushwhack in a wilderness-like area. Rating: E3. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drinks. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues. RSVP by 06/28 to John at 860-342-0658.

Saturday, June 30, 7:30a - Short Mountain, Ragged Mountain and Beyond, Southington / Berlin: This will be an 11- to 13-mile hike along these beautiful trap rock ridges. The hike will feature beautiful views and a look at rock slab caves. We may see rock climbers as this is a popular spot for the sport. Rating: B1. No kids but well-managed dogs OK. Hiking boots only. Bring lunch and drink. Bad weather cancels. Meet at the Portland Police Station parking lot on Main Street between Freestone and Waverly Avenues at 7:30 OR at Timberlin Park off Route 364 in Berlin at 8:00. From Route 71 (Chamberlain Highway) take Route 364 west to the golf course, go to the far end of the parking lot on the left, and travel on the road there to the cul-de-sac at the end. RSVP by 06/29 to Steve at 860-301-8661 or sdk8@att.net.